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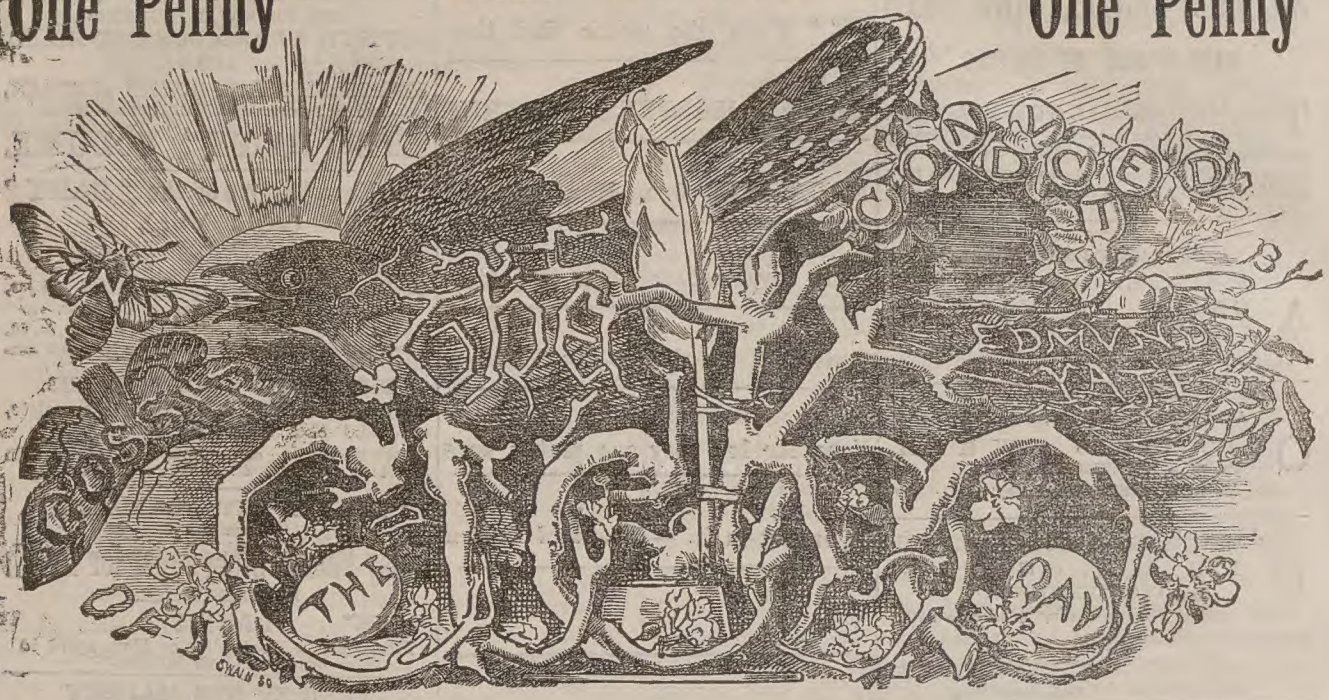

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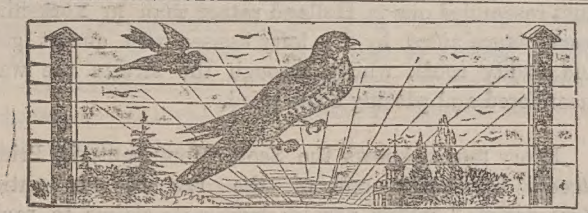
"THE CUCKOO" was desperately late in making its first flight yesterday afternoon, and we have to apologise for any inconvenience suffered by the good-humoured mob in Fetter Lane, which broke into our premises to seize the first bundle issued from the press, and defied the exertions of a picked body of police. There is always trouble and delay with a first number, and we were compelled to leave unexecuted a large proportion of our country orders. All this shall be remedied as speedily as possible, and by next week the "Cuckoo" will be fairly on the wing.—Ed.



News from Abroad.

At Candahar our soldiers are occupied apparently with shooting, polo, and making paper weights out of the hoofs of the horses that were killed in the rout of Maiwand. At Cabul, that indefatigable lady, "Abdulla Jan's mother," is making matters very disagreeable for the Ameer.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Melvill, of the Bombay High Court, to whom we referred yesterday, had, it appears, been ordered to Europe by his doctors, but only got as far as Cairo. The deceased judge was only 44 years of age and stands in the Civil Service List next to his brother, the Hon. Maxwell Melvill.

Latest telegrams from the Transvaal state that in an interview with Mr. Joubert on Thursday last, outside the Boer camp, he blamed Sir T. Shepstone for mis-stating the condition of things before the annexation. He declared that the British troops commenced the war at Potchefstroom, when the Boers were fired upon by order of Sir Wm. Lanyon. His people always desired an English protectorate, and he believed a settlement might be arrived at by the annexation of a portion of the Transvaal on the Mount Prospect side of the Vaal river, giving the Boers the Republic on the other side, the British Government to be recouped the expenses of the war by this additional territory.

A congregation of cardinals in the Vatican are busy arranging the details and ceremonies attending the first public appearance of His Holiness the Pope. Rome already begins to look forward to the ceremony, now-a-days so rare; and there is no doubt that sufficient of the old love of the "plebs" for spectacles survives to render the re-appearance of the Pope an extremely popular act on the part of the Holy Father.

According to the wish of the Society of Musical Composers of France, the President of the Republic has decided that the names of Herold and Félicien David should be given to two streets in Paris, or rather to one street and a-half.

In three months Paris will possess a miniature Militia, recruited from all the communal schools of the capital. It has been finally decided that at an expense of two hundred and fifty thousand francs, all children between the ages of eleven and fifteen may be equipped in rough blue cloth, gaiters, and kepi, and armed with breechloaders, which, however, will not carry ball cartridge. The first juvenile levy will be of twelve thousand.

M. Coumoundouros has declared that he takes his stand on the decision of the Berlin Conference. The instant he shows any wavering from this declaration he will have to make way for his rival, M. Trecoupis. There is no third party in Greece. No public man, whatever his private convictions, would dare, in the present temper of the people, to raise his voice in favour of peace.

It is a remarkable fact that some of our contemporaries should consistently undervalue the Greek Army. It is far from contemptible, for the patriotic enthusiasm which pervades all ranks suffices alone to make it formidable. Moreover, in calculating the result of a Turko-Greek campaign, we must remember that the Greek infantry is as much superior in individual intelligence to the Turkish as it is inferior in physique. In personal bravery we do not think there is much to choose between them, for the Greek is by no means a coward. Now, in these days of modern firearms, as we have lately learnt to our cost, intelligence counts for as much, if not more, than personal courage and discipline.

In regimental officers the Greeks have decidedly the advantage, for the Greek officers of the line are second to none in Europe as regards a knowledge of all that is required of them on the parade-ground. Every subaltern can drill and instruct his men as well as the best English drill-sergeant, while the cavalry and artillery officers have all passed through the Military Academy, being mostly scions of aristocratic families. They are likely to err on the side of an excess of science and theory rather than from a want of it. The officers of the infantry are required to pass through the ranks, working their way up through the different grades of non-commissioned officers, and, before being commissioned, are subjected to an educational test. The system of keeping cadres of battalions, each with a full complement of officers, although derided by military critics, has had the good result of producing a nucleus of well-trained officers and non-commissioned officers, whose services are now invaluable.

No doubt the weakest point in the whole of their military system is the want of a practised staff and experienced generals. Recognising this fact, M. Trecoupis applied last

autumn for aid to France. This brought about the proposal of the French Government to despatch to Athens the much-censured mission of General Thomasin and staff. Since then many foreign officers, mostly Germans, have tendered their services, but a Greek law precludes a foreigner from serving as an officer in the army or navy. A Bill to repeal this law has been for some time before the Chamber, but a private letter by the last mail from Athens informs us that it "still hangs fire owing to Greek obstinacy, ignorance, and pride."

Roumania evidently contemplates action of some kind during the complications anticipated in South-Eastern Europe. The order for one hundred field-pieces which has been given to Herr Krupp, of Esser, is only one of many signs that Prince Charles means "business." The Principality netted a large sum—much larger than is generally known—as a result of the Russo-Turkish war, the payment made by the Czar to the Roumanian Government for transport of troops and assistance having proved vastly in excess of the expenditure incurred.

Up to Sunday, the 6th, one hundred and twenty-six bodies had been found under the ruins at Casamicciola; the wounded amounted to one hundred and seventy-seven.

The ancient part of the island has suffered the most; in fact, I may say that it has been all destroyed, hence Maio, Spezione, Santabarbara, Pomeo, Montecito, Cuccofriddo, Aloisio e Casamennella have completely disappeared, whereas the houses on the sea-shore have remained almost all intact. Of the modern part of the town, the following streets have already been cleared: Casamonte Casamennella and Purgatorio, and the remaining ones of S. Barbara, Montecito, and Aloisio. I very much fear weeks may elapse before the *débris* is carried away.

Those who rendered the greatest and first assistance were the prisoners, at the *Bagno d'Ischia*, who were under the commands of the Governor Attilio Stagno.

News from the Country.

A Quaker tea-dealer at Newcastle plays towards Mr. Joseph Cowen, M.P., a part something akin to that which Rowcliffe, the redoubtable Tiverton butcher, played towards Palmerston in his historic election campaigns. The Quaker's "latest," placarded in all the northern towns within the last day or two, draws crowds of appreciative readers, but "Joe" is by no means now "the man of the people" that he was before he took to attacking Mr. Bright.

The Lord Mayor of London, who is one of the committee appointed by the Wesleyan Conference to consider the advisability of disposing of the Oldham-street (Manchester) trust property, was entertained at luncheon yesterday morning by the Mayor of Manchester, in the Town Hall. His Lordship was the guest of Mr. Isaac Hoyle, of Prestwich.

A Yorkshire farmer recently applied to the Melton Bench for a licence to remove a flock of infected ewes from a farm at North Grimston, where he had no turnips, to his own fields, where he had plenty. The Bench had no legal option but to refuse the application, and the farmer stated, in answer to a question, that he was further precluded by agreement from taking the turnips off his farm! There were the sheep waiting for the turnips, and here were the turnips waiting for the sheep; but law and agreement alike forbade the desired union; and, till some concession be made either by the Privy Council or by the farmer's landlord, the ewes must bleat hungrily, and the turnips yearn in vain after the mutton which it is their natural destiny to sustain in life and to garnish after decease.

A very large and enthusiastic meeting of the Conservative electors was held in the New Corn Exchange, Rochester. The chair was taken by Lieutenant-General Bingham, C.B., J.P. Resolutions were passed supporting Mr. Roger Leigh as the member of Rochester, and his principles in the House of Commons.

The new cathedral about to be erected at Douglas, in the Isle of Man, is to cost £25,000. The style will be Early English. The building will be cruciform in plan and will have two towers and spires at the western end. It will contain a nave, aisles, chancel, choir, transepts, vestries, and chapter-house. The architect is Mr. J. P. Bayley.

Among the northern rivers proposed to be exemped from the provisions of the Rivers Conservancy Bill is the Tees. This stream, however, took the liberty yesterday of flooding the quaint little town of Yarm, and water stood seven feet high in its main street, traffic was by boat from house to house, and the whole scene from the great railway viaduct resembled one in Holland rather than in Yorkshire, a resemblance aided by the lofty houses with quaint gables and ruddy roofs, whilst through the streets the waters meandered and passing boats plied.

Every tourist knows the Scott Monument, in Princes-street, Edinburgh—one of the few of our national "memorials" which possess legitimate claims to rank as works of art. By way of completing the original scheme, the authorities now invite "sketch designs for proposed statues to fill the vacant niches." How would it do to begin with a representation of Mr. Childers in the uniform of the 42nd Highlanders?

Now that one undergraduate has died and another is lying in the agonies of typhoid, owing to the defective sanitary arrangements of Oxford lodging-houses, the authorities are at last discovering that something must be done, at least to forestall public indignation, if not to cure the existing evils. So they are thinking of hiring a plumber to act as servant to the Member of Congregation who is supposed to be responsible for the condition of 600 lodging-houses, and if the plumber knows how to write a report—well, that is really all that can be expected of them and of him. This is not an allegory, it is a sober fact.

It says a good deal for the good feeling which exists between the two Universities in their annual boat-race on the Thames, that the largest subscription which the Oxford Club has received to cover its recent losses by fire should have come from Cambridge. It is understood that a contribution of one hundred guineas has been sent from the Cam to the Isis.

News of Town.

Political.

Kilmainham Gaol, Dublin, where the Coercion Act prisoners are lodged, is not by any means the damp and loathsome dungeon which it appears to the excited imaginations of some people who have never seen it.

As a fact, each prisoner has a comfortable little room to himself, with boarded floor (the floors of Dartmoor are made of cold concrete), an ordinary mattress bedstead, with an allowance of four blankets, tobacco, books, and newspapers. The prison fare of these Coercion gentlemen is excellent in all respects, and they are allowed to order other food for themselves, which the Land League pays for.

Altogether, there cannot be a shadow of a doubt that coming to Kilmainham is quite a rise in life for a good many of the recent arrivals. They can also all talk together for six hours a day, so if the prison is not blown to atoms by some diabolical plot within a week or so, "where is Ireland's manhood gone?"—as Nally asked the crowd who looked on while he was being trotted off to gaol.

Summonses have been issued for a Cabinet Council, to be held to-day at 2 p.m.

A Central News Dublin correspondent states that it is believed that very large seizures of arms will be effected within the next week, and that the authorities have arrangements completed for making several of these. The speech of Mr. Dillon on Sunday, in Tipperary, will be closely watched, with a view to prompt action by the Government, should its tendency prove of a dangerous character. It is said to-day that Mr. Parnell has decided not to come over.

The Secret Correspondence between Russia and Afghanistan has rather a curious secret history. When General Roberts came smashing up through the Afghans into the capital there was not time for the moonshees and duftrees and the rest to get all dangerous documents out of the way. Some of the men in the secret of the fatal correspondence had gone out to fight at Charasiab, others had gone out with the suite of the Ameer, and the result was that General Roberts, being well aware of the existence of the papers in question, was able, as soon as he got into the Bala Hissar, to net all that there were.

But the chief document of them all, the treaty with Russia, was missing. Somebody about the Palace hinted at the paper-consuming propensities of white ants. The Ameer said he had "torn it up" himself.

At all events, the all-important Treaty was gone. Under cross-examination, however, certain professional notaries of the town confessed to having made copies of the Treaty, and, so, with a delightful adhesion to Oriental procedure, these men were then and there taken off to separate apartments, and, been provided with ink and paper, were ordered to write from memory all they could, and a sentry was placed over them to prevent tricks. The result was as satisfactory as anything in the "Arabian Nights," for the versions of the different scribes when they came to be compared agreed so remarkably that the text of the Treaty was virtually restored verbatim.

But how was it that these very secret papers came to be published in England, in spite of the Ministry? Lord Lytton is personally suspected by an ill-informed few to have supplied the documents to a London morning paper. But the real fact is, that they were published in India on the 12th of February, the editor of the paper in which they appeared being the Indian correspondent of the London daily to which they were communicated. So there is very little mystery after all, and Dukes need not have been so rude to Earls.

The anticipated Government Land Bill gives satisfaction nowhere in Ireland. The prevalent impression amongst the landlord class is that the present strained situation should be relieved by State purchase at a fair average price of such estates as the owners wish to sell. It is not the committal of "suspects" to prison that they require, but their rents or the equivalent. Mr. Parnell's boast that he would make the landlords not only willing but anxious to be bought out is being now literally accomplished.

Many Irish landlords regard their properties merely as a safe security for their incomes, and would just as soon have their money in any other form of investment at any time. If they could now realise the value of their lands in cash they would not touch land again for a generation. As to the feudal tie, the mutual sympathy, &c., these have been rudely cut of late. All the Queen's horses and all the Queen's men cannot make whole again that relation between Irish landlord and Irish tenant which Lever described.

It is not generally known, but is yet the fact, that agrarianism is stronger in the North than in the South. The attitude of the tenants towards landlords is more insolent, and their demands are more exorbitant. The mass of Protestant farmers do not seem to have actually joined the Land League, but the combination to refuse rent is closer and more resolute than elsewhere. In Antrim, the most exclusively Protestant county in Ireland, the temper of the tenants is fiercer than in Cork.

One of the suspects of yesterday was brought from Castletown, Berehaven, a place passed but not visited by the tourists of Glengariffe. It is a picturesque little town and harbour, surrounded by an amphitheatre of magnificent hills, lying twenty miles west of Glengariffe.

The Fleming Relief Expedition, consisting of some eleven stalwart labourers, armed with spade and revolver, is now on board Her Majesty's gunboat *Connemara*, and speeding westward. Mr. Fleming seems to have been Boycotted chiefly on account of his missionary character.

The Emergency Committee enjoys the credit of organising this relief for the Rev. Mr. Fleming. Should the rent-strike continue, this Committee expects to obtain from the North of Ireland plenty of labourers and farmers' sons to take the farms from which defaulters have been evicted, and which are, consequently, banned, in the South. Thus we may be in for a new plantation of Ireland.

In the House of Commons last night, the Irish Arms Bill was read a third time, and Mr. Gladstone gave notice of his intention to move on Monday, that public business was "urgent," and that the Committee of Supply have precedence. Shortly before the rising of the House, the

Speaker presented additional rules framed to facilitate the consideration of supplies.

A meeting of the Conservative party was summoned for this afternoon to take into consideration the above notice of the Premier.

Mr. Michael Boyton, now languishing in Saxon fetters, came first to England with "the Captain" to "float" the elder and more buoyant Boyton upon the English public, and in British waters. Later he became interested in a Dress Life Saving Company, which he also "floated," to its speedy collapse. Afterwards Mr. Michael Boyton is known to have led a modest and secluded life, until the wrongs of Ireland led him to those outraged shores to defend with his life's blood the last liberties of that onhappy counthry.

The polling for Coventry opened this morning quietly, and both parties at once went earnestly to work in bringing up voters. There are eighteen polling stations. Being Saturday, it is expected that the bulk of the voting will take place after one o'clock. There is already some excitement, and it is stated that this will be the most severe contest which has taken place in Coventry for a long time.

Gossip of the Lobby.

An information has been filed against Mr. Rowley—the Conservative candidate for Boston at the late election—at the instance of the Attorney-General.

A "question" is to be asked in the House of Commons as to whether Mr. O'Kelly, M.P., is qualified to retain his seat, he being, as he alleges, a naturalised American.

Mr. L. W. Cave, Q.C., Recorder of Lincoln, is named as the successor to the late Sir Henry Jackson as a judge of the High Court of Justice attached to the Queen's Bench Division.

The Act for the Preservation of Wild Birds and Wild Fowl will come into operation on Tuesday next, and will remain in force till the 1st of August. A large number of song and other birds are scheduled to be free from sportsman or poacher during the close season defined.

Upwards of £9,300 has been received at the Mansion House for the wives, children, and relatives of the unfortunate men who met their deaths by the foundering of the *Atalanta*. It is believed that there is a surplus of the *Princess Alice* Fund still unappropriated, which might be made available for the above purpose.

In consequence of the rather liberal use made of the refreshment-bar within the lobby of the House of Commons, Mr. Caine, M.P., is to ask the First Commissioner of Works, on Monday, whether the "privilege" may not be confined to the exclusive use of Members of Parliament.

On the motion of Mr. Hibbert, a return was to-day issued to Parliament, giving a comparative statement of the number of paupers in receipt of relief on the last day of the first week of January last, from which it appears that the metropolis had 2,464 fewer recipients than in the corresponding period of 1880. The average rating is, however, higher.

A supplementary estimate has been issued to-day for Her Majesty's navy, to meet extraordinary transport services in connection with the outbreak of hostilities in the Transvaal. For the hire of transports there is required £122,000, the other charges making the total up to £210,000.

Mr. Hinde Palmer and Mr. Jacob Bright are interesting themselves in regard to the property of married women. Their names appear on the back of a Bill to be laid before Parliament on Monday, which enacts that every woman who shall marry after the passing of this Act shall be entitled to have and hold as her separate property all real and personal property which shall belong to her at the time of marriage, or shall be acquired or devolve upon her after that event, including wages and "earnings."

Law and Police.

The Criminal Investigation Department is still without its chief. Overwork, and probably no little worry, drove Mr. Howard Vincent to ask for short leave, which he has been spending at Cannes.

Meanwhile, the cause of it all hangs about the lobbies of the House, like a burly, middle-aged Peri outside the doors of Paradise, naked of his Parliamentary honours, but not by any means ashamed.

Ingenious as Mr. Benjamin, Q.C., is known to be, he could make absolutely nothing of the Castro appeal. The Lords were down upon him at every sentence, and poor Mr. Atterley Jones, his junior, and a Chartist by hereditary right, fared even worse.

The result of which is that "Roger, *alias* Castro, *alias* Orton," will "languish" for another six or seven years in the quarries of Portland or on the desolate swamps of Dartmoor.

Clarke and Bradlaugh has resulted in an unexpected decision, which may deprive the House of Commons of the company of Mr. Bradlaugh for some time to come. Everybody knew that the plaintiff, Mr. Clarke, was a "man of straw" put up by a Conservative M.P. to test the question, but nobody anticipated the descent of his judicial thunderbolt on the devoted head of the junior Member for Northampton.

What Mr. Bradlaugh will have to pay is somewhere about £50,000 unless the decision is reversed. What the nation will have to pay is a waste of a night of Parliamentary time in another semi-religious wrangle over the new writ for Northampton, which Mr. Gorst intends to move.

As usual in cases of this character, Westminster Hall is considerably mobbed with persons who have accidentally strolled down to the courts "just to see if anything is going on, you know."

The divorce suit of Furrell *v.* Furrell, with two co-respondents, is still going on before Mr. Justice Hannen, but after the wife's confessions it is hardly likely the case can be prolonged beyond this morning.

Another case interesting to tenants who find themselves living in damp houses will in a day or two bring under review the decision of a Greenwich County Court jury the other day in favour of a Mr. Currey, who sued for the recovery of a year's rent paid in advance, together with damages, for a serious attack of rheumatism acquired through taking a lease of a damp house. The decision turned on the supposed fact of a misrepresentation by the landlord, otherwise it would have been contrary to what is generally understood as the law on the subject of leases; and lessees who, on the strength of this case, recklessly inhabit damp houses, are very apt to get the rheumatics without the compensation.

The Services.

Does the War Office think it desirable to save some thousands of pounds in the year, and to render the colonies practically independent of Woolwich for their supplies of ammunition? If so, let the home authorities follow the example of the Indian Government by adopting Mr. Richard Morris's simple device for the re-utilisation of spent cartridges. By this invention the cartridge-case may be restored to proper form, loaded, and re-capped easily and quickly, either on the practice-ground or on the field, and 12s. 8d. per thousand be saved to Government. At present two well-known firms are competing for the manufacture of the necessary apparatus.

An order has been received at Chatham directing that No. 7 Company of the Corps of Royal Engineers is to be held in readiness to proceed to the Cape.

H.M.'s 75th (Stirlingshire) Regiment left Chatham yesterday for Malta, to relieve the 26th Regiment (Cameronians), which has been ordered to Natal.

The 26th and 2nd Battalion of the 10th were inspected on the Floriana at Malta on the 3rd inst., previous to their departure for the Cape. An eyewitness of the review tells me that both battalions are in splendid condition.

The prospect of a change of masters is not much relished in Pall Mall. It is not that Lord Hartington is unpopular at the War Office—where, indeed, he is still pleasantly remembered—but everybody has got to know Mr. Childers by this time, and all his little ways. The Duke, too, is probably chafing. He certainly will not find the new Secretary of State for War so tractable as his predecessor.

A very light and serviceable uniform has been adopted for the Hussars now serving in Natal. It consists of *dungaree*, a material much resembling brown holland, with patent helmets, and has anything but a military appearance. The weapons are sabres and carbines.

The *Swift*, double-screw gun vessel, 756 tons, 870 h.p., which for some months past has been lying in one of the basins of the Chatham Dockyard, has been ordered to be immediately overhauled, with the view of being put into commission on the 15th inst. Her probable destination will be the China station.

An intense feeling of vexation and annoyance has been created amongst the shooting men of the Volunteer Force, in the matter of the Wimbledon scandal of 1880. Not only was Sergeant Marsham acquitted because the only evidence which was of value against him was suppressed, but Sergeant Sage, who has now been publicly thanked for his services by the vote of a special meeting of the Association, was heavily mulcted in costs out of pocket, loss of trade, &c. We are informed that a testimonial is about to be arranged for so as to acknowledge the services of Sergeant Sage and Mr. Runtz, and that Earl Waldegrave, L.R.B., Lieutenant-Colonel Clifford Wigram, T.H.R.B.; Captain Pixley, Victorias; Captain Starkie, Queen's; Major Young, Finsbury's; R. W. Dunlop, Esq., C.B., London Scottish, and others, have agreed to place their names on the committee.

Sir Frederick Roberts's appointment to Natal, now that peace with the Boers seems in a fair way of accomplishment, cannot, after all, prove so very severe a blow to Sir Garnet Wolseley. It is a question, indeed, whether it was ever felt by Sir Garnet "as a blow"—and it is quite certain that Government never intended it for one.

Mr. Childers finds the hero of Coomassie far too useful at home with brains and pen to send him abroad to be useless with his sword.

Sir Frederick Roberts, indeed, might as well have left his sword behind, and, except for the honour and glory of having been sent out to polish off the Boers, might have disembarked at Madeira, or never left England. If the hoax was put upon "Bobs" deliberately, we may consider that the *Nineteenth Century* champion of the young soldier has fairly scored one off the Mansion House champion of the long-service system.

But it is difficult to believe that Mr. Childers or "the Duke" could have played such a practical joke with malice prepense, and impossible to suppose that Sir Garnet would. But there is, nevertheless, an unsatisfactory suspicion that somebody in very high places has been trying to pass off for Janus, and, while sounding the war trumpet with one mouth, was smoking the pipe of peace with the other.

Unfortunately, "Boer tobacco" is the most abominable smoking in the world.

Joubert and Kruger, it should be noted, had arranged the preliminaries of the present armistice *before* Sir Frederick Roberts and his pomp of reinforcements had started. Everybody therefore, who speaks on the peace question will be so good as to remember that the sending out of that officer and his troops could not have been in any way whatsoever the cause of the Boers' pacific resolutions.

The third member of the Dutch Triumvirate, the farmer Pretorius is never referred to in telegrams. He is the peace member, and it is quite possible that his name only stands as one of the three, because in the Transvaal it is a name to work miracles with, and the rebels could not do without it. As in every other rebellion great popular names are impressed into the movement, whether the bearers of them have rebellion at heart or not.

The 75th Regiment, which has just started for the Mediterranean, is one of the two which, under the new territorial scheme is to be promoted to the honours of the kilt. It is lucky for them that they will be in a warm climate when the order comes for them to take off "the breeks."

The gallant survivors of Maiwand have been distinguished by a visit from H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, Sir Garnet Wolseley, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, and Sir Charles Ellice, who crossed to Cowes in the *Sprightly* yesterday afternoon, and drove to Parkhurst to inspect this regiment. A very deep impression was made on all who saw the arrival of the brave but broken-down 66th a fortnight since. They had no band, for theirs was lost in the Maiwand disaster, and they bore but too plainly the marks of hard fighting and of the trying climate they have left.

The 75th (Stirlingshire) Regiment, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Hammill, left Chatham yesterday (Friday) morning. Two special trains were employed in the conveyance of the regiment to Portsmouth, for embarkation on board the *Egypt*. The total strength of the regiment is 750 all ranks.

When one reads so much about the miserable condition of the British Army, it is satisfactory to learn from a Northern correspondent that the Stornoway Naval Reserve, of 1,200 men, all up to a standard of 5 ft. 8 in., strong, healthy, and able-bodied, passed a successful inspection the other day. It would be well if Lord Dunmore, or Sir James Matheson, could induce some of these hardy, Highland fishermen, who are unmarried, to leave their homes in Harris, and follow the fife and drum.

Gossip of Town.

The sudden death of Count Jaraczewski yesterday afternoon will be a shock to a great many persons, especially to the Prince of Wales, with whom he was a great favourite, and to whom the news was telegraphed to Paris. "Sherry and Whisky," the name by which he was regularly known to his *intimes*, was a pleasant and cheery companion, and a bold and spirited backer of his opinion at games of skill and chance. It was a pleasure to hear his fervent and respectful "Oui, Monseigneur," in deferential endorsement of his illustrious friend's opinion. He will be much missed at the Turf Club and in country houses, where he obtained an ascendency not often granted to foreigners whose previous career is not thoroughly well known.

I suppose during his stay in Paris H.R.H. has been to see *Nana*, and wondered at the mysterious Prince in that play, of whom he is supposed to be the prototype. Since the first night the Prince has had very little to do, and is after all a very mild edition of the gallant leader of our golden youth.

The determination to reduce the price of the *Morning Post* to one penny, and to "run" it as the organ of the thorough-going Tories, was arived at after the Cumberland election, at a meeting held in the Carlton. The Duke of Sutherland and Mr. Lowther were present, but neither Lord Beaconsfield nor Sir Stafford Northcote are warm supporters of the idea. It was a leader in the *Standard* on the Cumberland election which roused Mr. Lowther's ire, and to which he attributed his defeat.

I am given to understand that the explanation of the short interval that elapsed between the death of a distinguished scientific writer and the marriage of a still more distinguished novelist to an old family friend, is to be found in the fact that the lady discovered among the papers of the deceased some by which his fidelity was clearly compromised.

The Duke of Sutherland has, it is said, subscribed £40,000 to the new venture.

The *Morning Post*, as a penny paper, will be printed on two machines which have been purchased from the *Standard* for £6,000.

That the *Times* and its compositors disagreed, and that many of the latter were discharged for the gross offence of not doing what they ought not to do, will be fresh in the memory of our readers. The men summoned the printer of the paper for their fortnight's wages. Sir Andrew Lusk dismissed the summons on the ground that the firm had a right to impose the rule which the men regarded as unjust, but added a recommendation, twice repeated, that the men should be paid a week's wages. It will surprise no one who knows the urbanity which characterises the chiefs in Printing House Square to hear that they have refused to act upon the Alderman's very reasonable suggestion.

The gross printers' errors which appear almost daily in the *Times* are sufficient evidence of the blunder made in discharging the men. The combination of stale news and weak comments shows an equally striking decline in the literary department of the paper since the time, not so very distant, when Mr. Delane retired from the head of affairs But the change was gradual. The manager of the paper—to parody the words of a great writer—was not wise even then; but his folly was not developed to the point it is at present. It has been reserved for us to witness the climax of literary dulness and mechanical mismanagement.

The Australian mail brought news last night that Mr. William Senior, the "Red Spinner" of angling literature, is on his way home, after five years' sojourn in Queensland. "We have had enough of the colonies," says Mr. Senior in his letter. "The five years have passed pleasurably enough, but we have never yet felt ourselves *at home*." Mr. Senior was to set sail in the *John Elder* from Sydney, on the 11th of February.

One suggested improvement generally leads to another—or more. The other day they were experimenting on the Underground Railway with Beaumont's compressed air-engine; now it is proposed to let a little air into the course of the line itself by a system of ventilating shafts. It is quite time something was done to make travelling on the Underground a little less unpleasant.

It is said that you cannot ride in a "four-wheeler" without risk of catching the smallpox, or take a hansom without the chance of being afflicted with glanders. Evidently some new kind of "safety" cab of a pronounced kind is required.

The Committee of the Salisbury Club and their proprietor, Mr. Lever, are getting themselves into hot water. Their recent arbitrary action towards more than one gentleman in the Club has excited general disgust. The House Committee resigned in a body quite recently. The *cuisine* should be looked to if the Club is ever to be a success from a *gourmet's* point of view.

Mr. Irving entertains a select party of gentlemen at dinner on Sunday, April 3rd, to meet Mr. Edwin Booth.

Mrs. Alma-Tadéma's masked ball last week was such a success that it will be repeated during the season.

Messrs. Nicholls and Company's failure in Calcutta gave rise, I am told, to very distressing scenes. The clerks in the office were actually ignorant of the smash, even after the news was published outside, and when the public came crowding in, men and women together, to know the truth, they found the *employés* utterly bewildered at their desks, and unable to answer their questions. Many families are involved in the ruin of this once great banking house.

A warrant for the arrest of Mr. G. A. Thompson, of the above firm, has been issued.

The Chief of Dundas, Mr. James Dundas, of that ilk, whose death has just been announced in his 89th year, was the posthumous son of Captain George Dundas, who commanded the *Winterton*, East Indiaman, and was lost at the wreck of that vessel on the coast of Madagascar, on the 22nd August, 1792. The deceased laird was born on the 14th January, 1793, nearly five months after his gallant father's death.

What is this I hear about a certain distinguished serjeant-at-law coming before the public shortly as a co-respondent, in a case where a late City dignitary will be the assailant?

Sir George Strahan, K.C.M.G., who was Sir Hercules Robinson's *locum tenens* at the Cape, is now in London. He is on his way to Australia to assume his new governorship.

Sir Garnet Wolseley has become possessed of a town house in Hill-street, Mayfair. Is this in anticipation of his coming honours?

The Earl of Beaconsfield gave a dinner party on Thursday evening in Curzon-street, the Earl and Countess Gran-

ville, Earl and Countess Spencer, and the Countess of Lonsdale being among the guests.

The late Earl of Crawford and Balcarres' house in Grosvenor-square is to be sold. It is one of the finest mansions in that part of the West-end.

It pleases me to compliment the *Statist* for having refused the ten-guinea advertisement of the Indian Company, which appears this morning in the daily papers.

"Rinking" dies hard. Any person who has occasion to pass up Fetter-lane of a fine evening may observe the *jeunesse d'airain* of the district disporting itself rollerously on the ashpalte.

I hear from a correspondent in Glasgow who is intimate with nearly all of the Clyde shipbuilders that the rapid passage of the White Star steamer *Britannic* from Liverpool to New York is not generally believed in there. The fastest passage hitherto on record is that of the Guion liner *Arizona* in seven days ten hours. The *Britannic* is said to have done it in six days ten hours; therefore a mistake of a full day of 24 hours is thought to have been made. The matter is more important than some would think, as the gigantic *Servia*, recently launched, is expected to prove the fastest steamship afloat. Yet her speed, calculated at 18 knots an hour, would not allow her to cross the Atlantic in less time than than that above recorded.

Lord Mayor McArthur and his Sheriffs, Under-Sheriffs, and Officers and Members of the Corporation of London, will attend at St. Luke's Parish Church, Old-street, to-morrow morning in full State, to hear a sermon by Archdeacon Blomfield, Vicar of Barking, in aid of the funds of the hospital. The City Militia will form the guard of honour.

The writer of the prominently placed letter in a morning contemporary, warning the public against medicated waters that are just now the fleeting fashion of an hour, is, I believe, one of our first surgeons.

Dr. Carl Schneider, the newly-appointed English correspondent to the *Cologne Gazette*, is not only the author of "Cyprus Under English Rule," but is the writer of the remarkable criticism of Mr. Irving's "Hamlet," which was quoted in England, and known at the time as "A German view of *Hamlet*."

That ill-fated Cunarder, the *Batavia*, has at last reached the Mersey, and on the New York line will be known no more. She is to be transferred to the Boston service.

The date of sailing of the Cunard Company's new vessel the *Servia*, which, next to the *Great Eastern*, is the largest vessel afloat, is finally fixed for the 9th of July, when she will be the mail steamer for New York.

Lord Ailsa has now building in the yard of Fife of Fairlie, on the Clyde, a 40-ton yacht, to be named the *Sleuthound* This makes the fifth boat with a "dog" name for his lordship. First, the little 35-ton *Foxhound;* then the Bloodhound (so well known in the south); next the Beagle, ten tonner, built at his Castle of Crelzean, by Fife; the steam tender *Bull Dog;* and now the new one getting ready for launching. The other boats were the *Lady Evelyn* schooner, the *Clown* yawl, 25 tons, and the steamship *Marchesa*, which he still possesses. The little *Beagle* never got through the distemper, being literally drowned, on her second race in the Kyles of Bute, by the schooner *Nyanza*, which ran her down in a squall. Fife, the noted builder, with his son and brother, who were on board, had a most marvellous escape. Fortunately for the yachting world they managed to scramble into the bows of the schooner.

The bravest feat which falls to be recorded during the late storm is that of George Williams, of the Pint Errol Life Brigade, who swam out to the brig *Ranger* of Frederikshold, a wreck on the rocks at Usan, on finding that the four men of the crew in the rigging were too exhausted to make use of the rocket apparatus. He landed the three, and remained on board to haul ashore the fourth, which was being successfully done when the cage became jammed halfway, owing to the endless whip getting entangled in the ropes. The poor fellow would have been drowned had not Williams, knife in mouth, not again dashed into the surf, cut the ropes, and taken him ashore, cradle and all. Williams is a native of Birmingham, has been seventeen years in the navy, and is a member of the Naval Brigade, served in the late Zulu War, and was present at the battles of Isandlana, Ulundi, &c.

A son of one of the county magistrates went into a London hat establishment the other day and purchased a hat, leaving his old one to be brushed up, and promising to call for it later in the day. Whilst effecting the necessary renovation, the operator discovered traces of blood in the interior of the hat, and upon a closer examination being made, the name of a firm of Chatham outfitters was found imprinted on the inner lining. A council was held by the principals of the London house, and it was resolved that should the owner not put in an appearance at the time stated the police authorities should be forthwith communicated with. In the meanwhile, however, an uncle of the young gentleman, an old customer of the firm's, happened to call in, and in the course of a conversation that ensued, the suspicions of the hatter were confided to him. As will, perhaps, be readily surmised, the uncle recognised his nephew's hat, explained that the young gentleman's parents resided in the immediate vicinity of Chatham, that he was at present engaged in "walking" one of the London hospitals, and hinted that from the nature of the young gentleman's profession the stains might reasonably be accounted for. Such, indeed, turned out to be the case all was satisfactorily explained, and the young student an his friends were spared further annoyance.

Courts and Courtiers.

On the 3rd of May the Duchess of Connaught will open a bazaar in the Cannon-street Hotel for the benefit of the "Aldershot Soldiers' Homes" and "Chatham Soldiers' and Seamen's Institute."

Orders are issued from the Lord Chamberlain's office for going into mourning in consequence of the death of the Queen Dowager of Denmark, from yesterday the 11th inst. to the 1st April. The Queen has been pleased to dispense with mourning at the Drawing-room to be held on the 18th inst.

The Duke of Marlborough has taken a house in Grosvenor-street for the season. Mr. Richardson Gardiner, M.P.,

has taken possession of his recently-acquired residence in Grosvenor-square. The Ladies Bernard have returned from Ireland, while the Earl and Countess of Shannon have left town for their residence in that country.

In consequence of the bridegroom's indisposition, the marriage of Mr. Hwfa Williams with Miss Farquharson has been postponed for some days.

The Empress of Austria hunted with Sir Watkin Wynn's hounds at Baschurch yesterday. Four foxes were viewed, but all escaped, and on the whole the day's sport was anything but brilliant. Her Majesty, on Hard Times, was, as usual, well to the front.

Her Majesty the Queen goes to Italy in June. She was was so charmed with Baveno and its neighbourhood, and enjoyed her sojourn so much at the Villa Clara, that it is not to be wondered at she should wish to revisit this fair southern clime.

But the real object of the visit is the health of Prince Leopold, which is anything but what it should be. The doctors advise a warmer climate, and as soon as it is possible for Her Majesty to leave Windsor she will do so, accompanied by her youngest son.

Meanwhile, the Princess Louise has gone to select for them a suitable residence, and it is just possible that she will spend the summer in Italy too. It is probable that she will not return to Canada. The title "Marchioness of Lorne" has been dropped by tacit consent.

What at one time threatened to be a *cause célèbre* will, I suspect, be no more heard of. The action of ejectment brought by Sir Erasmus Phillips to establish his right to the large estates of Picton Castle, in Pembrokeshire, has collapsed, the claimant having taken out a summons to discontinue the action. There is thus less chance than ever of a Phillips occupying Picton. The present and the two preceding possessors assumed the name, the present occupier being Fisher, his predecessor Gwyther, and his Grant (Lord Milford).

Lady Holland has been ill at Nice, but is better.

Lady Rosebery's child has been baptized as a Protestant.

The deaths of Mrs. Meade and Mrs. Reginald Herbert have caused much grief in aristocratic circles.

Lord Ribblesdale is laid up with concussion of the brain, caused by a fall in the hunting field.

Eaglehurst, at East Cowes, where Count Batthyany has dispensed noble hospitality during the Regatta week for so many years, is to let. I hear the owner is asking £600 a-year for it.

A great ball will be given to-night at Marlborough House in honour of the eighteenth anniversary of the Prince's wedding.

The Marquis Tseng, the Chinese Ambassador, arrived at Charing-cross by the Continental mail train from Paris this morning.

On Thursday, amidst a large assembly of distinguished friends of the bride and bridegroom, the nuptials of Mdlle. Marie Louise Pelissier de Malakoff, daughter of the well-known marshal of the Second Empire, and the Count Tamyoski, was celebrated at the Church of St. Philippe du Roule in Paris.

The Kyrle Society gives a musical entertainment (with some recitations) at the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City-road, this evening.

At the Arts Club.

Mr. Millais is delighted with the condition in which he finds his old pictures, and says he would be glad to buy back again all those which are now on view in New Bond-street. In not one of them—not even in that polite little portrait in the five-guinea style, painted when the artist was about eighteen—has there appeared a crack, or any of those mysterious eruptions which form a sort of epidemic among modern colours.

Mr. Poynter's great picture of Venus and Æsculapius is on exhibition at the Royal Irish Academy. The Dublin folk stand aghast at its unabashed nudity.

The fame of Colonel Gordon—Chinese Gordon, of the Ever Victorious Army—is to be told in written history before he dies. Dr. Birkbeck Hill is busily engaged in compiling matter appertaining to his life and doings, and the volume may be looked for in May.

After all the dado in the galleries of the Royal Academy is not to be lowered for the next exhibition. There would only have been one clear week to carry out the alterations, and it is doubtful whether they would have been of any material benefit. As a matter of fact, the said dado is only 2 ft. 4 in. high in all the galleries, and the suggested eight-inch lowering in *nine of the rooms only* would not have given much additional space, and would, besides, have placed the ordinary line pictures at much too low a level.

If there was "A Children's 'Cloches de Corneville' Company" in the time of Herod, we are half inclined to think that monarch has been somewhat harshly judged in history.

Madame Albani's farewell performances of "Rigoletto" at the Theatre de la Monnaie, in Brussels, in aid of the victims of the Belgian inundations, and which was under the special patronage of the King and Queen, was made the occasion of a perfect ovation to the great Canadian cantatrice. The Queen stayed to the very end. The municipal authorities have presented Madame Albani with a silver crown in token of their gratitude for her help to their unfortunate countrymen. The net proceeds of the performance amounted to 5,415 francs, considerably more, we should say, than a franc a note.

Mr. Ruskin's latest idea is by no means uncharacteristic of his erratic genius. Some six miles to the north-east of Sheffield there is a wild and desolate moorland region surrounding a village called Bradfield. The weird fascination in the solitary character of this scenery has charmed the eye and heart of the great Teacher. In this lonely land—where are vast reservoirs almost as beautiful as the lakes of his beloved Westmoreland, rugged hills as sublime as the Cumberland fells, and yet no railroads, no chimneys, nothing jarring or discordant in the landscape—he intends building a museum and art-studio for the benefit of the working-classes in the neighbouring metropolis of steel. The grinders, the blacksmiths, the forgers, the factory-girls, the errand-boys are to trudge twelve weary miles over hills over dales to be educated in High Art and Æsthetic Culture.

The Jermyn-street officials are saying very hard things of Professor Huxley, whose scientific pluralism does not meet with their approval. Professor Huxley gets £600 a-year as naturalist to the Geological Survey, and, says Jermyn-street, gets his work done for him by an official who struggles to keep a tiny maid-of-all-work on £200 a-

year. It was fondly hoped that when Professor Huxley quietly stepped into £800 a-year from which death divorced "poor Frank Buckland," he would magnanimously give up his £600 to be divided among the deserving and underpaid officials of Jermyn-street. But Professor Huxley has not seen it in that light, and we can hardly blame him. If the State must indulge in the luxury of retaining the most eminent English biologist of his time, it is only fair that they should give him a fair fee, and, all told, his income from science is probably much under that of a Brixton surgeon in fair practice. All the same, the grievances of Jermyn-street require looking into; after years of severe training and hard work some of these survey officials are little better paid than Mr. Lyon Playfair's tenpenny clerks.

The Countess Stephanie Tanher de la Pagerie, one of the celebrities of the Court of Napoleon III., has in the Press a volume of memoirs which, we are assured, will be very interesting.

The Council of the Society of Arts now invite members to forward the names of such men of high distinction as they consider worthy of the honour of the Albert Medal, which will be awarded next May. This medal "for distinguished merit in furthering arts, manufactures, or commerce," has been awarded sixteen times. The recipients up to date in chronological order are as follows:—Sir Rowland Hill, Napoleon III., Professor Faraday, Mr. (afterwards Sir) W. Fothergill Cooke, Professor (Sir) Charles Wheatstone, Mr. (Sir) Joseph Whitworth, Baron Justus von Liebig, Ferdinand de Lesseps, Mr. (Sir) Henry Cole, C.B., Mr. (Sir) Henry Bessemer, Michel Eugène Chevreuil, C. W. Siemens, Michel Chevalier, Sir George B. Airy, Jean Baptiste Dumas, Sir W. G. Armstrong, Sir William Thomson, and J. Prescott Joule.

Many happy returns of the day, Mr. Toole. You may have forgotten it, but this day fifty years ago you came into the world. Those who wish to make birthday presents may be reminded from the following that they are seasonable:—

BIRTHDAY DIARY.

March 12.

Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, K.T., March 12, 1845, aged 36.

Earl Manvers, born at Holme Pierrepont, near Nottingham, March 12, 1825, aged 56.

Vice-Admiral the Hon. John Welbore Sunderland Spencer, R.N., born March 12, 1816, aged 65.

Sir Augustine FitzGerald, Bart., March 12, 1809, aged 72.

Sir William Codrington, Bart., in Brittany, March 12, 1829, aged 52.

Hon. George Herbert Windsor-Clive, M.P. for Ludlow, born March 12, 1835, aged 46.

Albert Pell, M.P. for South Leicestershire, born March 12, 1820, aged 61.

Lieut.-General Charles Douglas, R.A., born March 12, 1814, aged 67.

Rear-Admiral William Gore Jones, C.B., born March 12, 1827, aged 54.

John Laurence Toole (comedian), born March 12, 1831, aged 50.

March 13 (Sunday).

Hon. and Rev. Douglas Hamilton-Gordon (Chaplain to the Queen), born March 13, 1824, aged 57.

Hon. and Rev. Arthur Allen Bateman Hanbury (rector of Shobden, Herefordshire), born March 13, 1829, aged 52.

Hon. Ivo Francis Walter Bligh (son of the Earl of Darnley), born March 13, 1859, aged 22.

Sir Digby Cayley, Bart., born at York, March 13, 1807, aged 74.

Madame Selina Dolaro, the pretty little actress, has not hitherto been recognised as an authority on the law of libel. It appears that this lady, who recently left England on a starring tour in America, has had some differences of opinion with her manager on the question of salary, and has poured her sorrows into the faithful ear of a confiding editor of a New York theatrical print. Quoth the fascinating Selina: "I am a woman not easily roused; but when people treat me badly, I am capable of extreme energy in asserting my rights. You know here in America you can call a man a knave or a scoundrel in print with perfect impunity. In London you would be rewarded with ten years in gaol for indulging in the same style of compliment. At first I did not like the custom; but now that my eyes are opened to its beauties and conveniences, I consider it a most delicious and agreeable institution. I shall employ it, you may be sure, as much as is necessary, in order to justify myself. If my manager craves war, he will be obliged to an alarming extent!"

And it was all about dress that the seductive Selina quarrelled with her hard-hearted manager. "Personally," says the actress, ruffling her plumes, "the man was very distasteful to me. He fined me ten dollars four nights in succession because I did not wear a certain dress in *Carmen*. What I wore under Carl Rosa's management in London, and what satisfied Colonel Mapleson at the Academy of Music, surely should have been good enough for a burlesque troupe! I believe I am not conceited in saying that in England I had the reputation of being one of the best-dressed ladies on the stage. The trouble arose because I wore three and on others four dresses in *Carmen*." Dear me, what "laughter in court" would have been heard, what sly chuckles between Bench and Bar would have been reported, had Miss Dolaro tried the dress question at Westminster or Guildhall. "She is just the person," says her sympathetic editor, "for Judge Beach to bring into Court and coddle a jury into bringing in a verdict most agreeable to her own sweet will." In fact, if the faithless manager has ever heard of Lady Mary Wortley Montague, he might compromise the matter according to the summary of Lord Lyttleton's advice:—

> "Be plain in dress and sober in your diet;
> In short, my deary! kiss me and be quiet."

The *Post-Dispatch* of St. Louis, in noticing the performances of Her Majesty's Opera Company, expresses its conviction that Colonel Mapleson "would have added to his exchequer if he had carefully refrained from making the name of his partner, Queen Victoria, so prominent in his announcements. . . . . It is perfectly proper," continues the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*, "for the Queen to eke out her slender income by embarking in the show business of Mr. Mapleson; but just at this time there is considerable prejudice against her Majesty, on account of the treatment of the discontented poor of Ireland by Her Government; and it is possible that this feeling may be so deep rooted as to keep many sympathetic people away from the Opera." There are numbers of Irishmen in St. Louis; and Mr. Mapleson is reminded that "the Irish minstrel with his sweet harp was touching tender chords of the heart and awakening the noblest emotions, while Apollo lay sleeping in Italy," and that "there never yet was a true son of Ireland who was not moved by poetry and the sweet concord of sounds." Of course, however, a patriotic Irishman will not spend money on the gratification of his musical tastes when he knows "that a fair percentage must go to the privy account of the English queen." The St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* admits that the title of Mr. Mapleson's enterprise gives it an air of solidity.

But, it asks him as a business man, "whether the prejudice that his trade-mark excites now will not more than offset any pecuniary advantage that he may derive from an appeal to the well-known American fondness for high-sounding titles."

As some compensation for the provoking delay in the publication of a narrative of Baron Nordenskjöld's splendid feat in forcing the North-East Passage, we are likely to be flooded with literature on the subject in the course of a few months. Nordenskjöld himself has written his own version of the story, which is being published in German, and an English edition of which Macmillan & Co. are having prepared at their leisure. It will also be translated into nearly every tongue spoken in Europe except Basque, Turkish, and Irish. Besides Nordenskjöld's book, Lieutenant Bové, an Italian officer, who accompanied the expedition, is telling the story for behoof of his countrymen; while the Danish Lieutenant Hovgaard, who was also one of the *Vega's* staff, is preparing a narrative, which, like his chief's, will have a polyglot circulation. Lieutenant Hovgaard's work will begin to appear next September simultaneously in several languages, with numerous illustrations and maps, and will be completed in three months. Will the lieutenant take the wind out of the sails of his skipper? Messrs. Macmillan and Co. had better put on extra steam, unless, indeed, they are to publish both narratives.

Meantime, Lieut. Hogaard is preparing for another Arctic venture in connection with the Danish West-Siberian Trading Company, recently founded. He purposes to take a vessel to the Obi, find a good harbour at its mouth, and carry on investigations in the Kara Sea as to depth, movements of ice, &c., while two traders will make the journey overland between the Obi and the Jennissei to collect information with regard to its productions and trading possibilities. As to Lieut. Bové, he purposes to lead a great expedition next year in search of the South Pole.

Another new book may by-and-by be expected from Mr. Darwin and his son Francis, the joint authors of the recently-published work on "The Movement of Plants." The subject of their present investigations is those curious little holes, with their curly outputs, with which worms riddle some parts of the earth's surface. The subject does not look very promising, but under the magic glance of the father of modern evolution, it will doubtless be made to yield unexpected secrets.

In the City.

Sir William Harcourt seems to shy at the City. Three times already this Session he has evaded questions with reference to the rearrangement of the parochial charities, and the other night he once more threw cold water on Sir Henry Peek's suggestion that the actual value of City benefices should be ascertained. This is not very encouraging to the many Liberals and Liberal-Conservatives who are working and waiting for the reform of the multitude of civic abuses. All allowance must, of course, be made for the present political paralysis, but there is none the less reason why the preliminary process of investigation should not be proceeding. The question of Sir Henry Peek was simple enough. He wished to know if the value of a certain living which is returned at £214 per annum was not, as a matter of fact, £811, the population of the parish being 229. He further asked that, with a view to future legislation, the Charity or Ecclesiastical Commissioners should compile an accurate return. In two curt sentences the Home Secretary coolly snuffed out the whole question.

The Cabinet is pledged, through the Prime Minister, to deal with the City of London, and in no matter does it more require reform than in its ecclesiastical arrangements. The present state of things is scandalous. Most of the churches are expensive and unnecessary incumbrances, served by highly-paid clergymen. A few instances will illustrate the extraordinary disproportion between money received and services rendered. All Hallow's, Barking, is worth £2,000 a-year, and has a population of 400; All Hallow's, London-wall, £1,700, population, 805; St. Catharine, Coleman, £1,500, population, 317; St. Ethelberga, £1,050, population, 315; St. Helen, £1,250, population, 5,141; St. Olave, £2,100, population, 606; St. Mary-le-Bow, £1,000, population, 469. In four of the above six instances there is a rectory-house attached to the benefice; in no case is it inhabited; in each case it is let at a good rent. One of the incumbents referred to also draw £1,000 a-year as a canon of Canterbury; one lives at Bath, one at Richmond, a third at St. Leonard's, a fourth at Highbury, a fifth at South Kensington. These are the most flagrant examples, but there are many almost as bad.

Panama Canal Company.—The gentlemen promoting the Syndicate to bring out this undertaking dissolved for good at their second meeting. A very handsome profit was divided. It is ascertained that this extraordinary body of influential and well-known financiers never undertook to guarantee the emission of shares, only the expenses connected therewith. These intensely valuable services were well remunerated. The capital, which consists of 600,000 shares was arranged by them into 60 parts of 10,000 shares each—one part being at once taken by the promoters in payment for their trouble. The remaining 59 parts were offered to the public. Each member of the syndicate *undertook* to pay 4 francs per share, or 40,000 francs for each part! Had the issue failed, these gentlemen would evidently have lost nearly 2,000,000 francs. Fortune, however, proved favourable, and, according to published statements, their reward was the nice little sum of 14,000,000 francs, or about seven times their possible loss! This is being in the swim with a vengeance.

On the Continent the belief firmly obtains in success attending the International Monetary Conference to be held at Paris next month. Already an enhanced demand is springing up for silver dividend stocks. The securities most likely to be favourably affected are those of Austria and Hungary. Besides the Silver Rentes, the premium loan debt, amounting to close on £40,000,000 sterling, is paid in silver. These debentures have risen considerably in price since the Conference was spoken about, and the time of cheap buying seems passing away.

The South Austrian Railway Company would largely benefit by the appreciation of silver, almost all its receipts being in that metal. By paying in gold it loses heavily on the exchange.

The Employers' Liability Corporation is, I hear, really promoted by Mr. Leopold Salomon, of 125, Piccadilly, albeit his name is absent from the prospectus. Mr. Whittall, the secretary, is better known in a similar capacity to the Statistical Society. Backed up by Dr. Fair's name, the company looks likely to float.

The National Telephone Company will, under certain of its—by no means few—agreements, take over the business worked up by the Leeds and Edinburgh Companies, together with their full rights, and, in addition, the famous Glasgow Exchange, founded by Messrs. Grahame last year.

Started but a few months, the Leeds Telephone Company has already an income at the rate of some £9,000 per annum. That of the Glasgow Exchange is almost as large. Taking these facts into consideration, the proposed purchase price, £450,000 is not exorbitant. The "National," when subscribed, will at once commence operations in a dozen or so leading provincial towns. In fact, the necessary equipment is already sent to some, and the staff arrangements nearly complete.

The Day's Amusements.

Sport yesterday with Sir Watkin Wynn's hounds at Baschurch, where the Empress formed one of a large field, proved very poor. Two foxes were lost after short runs, owing to the fickleness of the scent, and a third and fourth, which were found, were run to ground.

Dr. Darbishire yesterday "coached" the Oxford crew, taking them two journeys over the home course. To-day they will do the full distance to Abingdon. The Cambridge crew had some light practice, and the feeling seems to be that they are taking matters rather easily.

A splendid game at football is certain to be witnessed this afternoon at the Oval, where the English meet the Scotch in the annual international match under Association rules. The Scotch team comprises the pick of something like 10,000 players, for the pastime has now a great hold in the North, and the Englishmen will, as they well know, have to play a hard, a fast, and a careful game.

The most interesting feature of the first day's shooting for the Champion Cup will be the meeting of the two American cracks, Dr. Carver and Mr. Ira A. Paine, the old opponent of Captain Bogardus in pigeon shooting matches. Mr. Paine is said to be in very good form, and the Doctor will have to be well on his birds to win.

Last night Vaughan was leading O'Leary, the American champion, in the walking-match at New York by seven miles. The record was—Vaughan 318, O'Leary 311.

Dr. Carver and Mr. Scott are still blazing away at the Aquarium. They had got through about two hundredweight of their shot last night; the record stands at the conclusion:—Scott, 2,883; Carver, 2,882. A few more matches of this kind and lead would rise as well as glass balls.

A disgraceful row took place amongst the Irish helpers at Combermere, the night on which McDonald, the stud groom, left. Some were summarily dismissed, others handed over to the police.

There is no doubt that the Empress has experienced great disappointment with her horses, three of which on her arrival were found to have sore backs, though the stud groom had been allowed three weeks to purchase them. A horse, also, was sent out once wrongly bitted and bridled, and consequently unmanageable.

The row at Combermere amongst the Empress of Austria's stud-groom seems to have arisen through the wages paid them being higher than those paid in other hunting establishments, several gentlemen complaining that their servants were on this account getting spoiled.

Too much advice was evidently tendered Her Majesty, as McDonald, saying that he would no longer endeavour to please seven or eight masters, rushed off to Ireland, and though telegraphed for by Herr Linden to come back, refused. His parting words were, "I did not leave them until I got provocation few could stand."

Mr. Harcourt, M.P., has drawn up his promised motion as to certain so-called benefit societies. The attention of Government has already been drawn to the sufferings endured by many deserving persons through the constant failure of this class of society; and efforts for private legislation having failed up to the present, the member for Oxfordshire is about to ask the Secretary for the Treasury to take the matter in hand.

So greatly has Kuhleborn improved during the last few months, and such an example did he make of Lancaster Bowman in a recent spin, that he is sure to make a bold bid for the Lincolnshire Handicap, and, in any case, should he carry the Heath House money, will see at least half his present price.

Peter, the top-weight in this race (Lincoln Handicap), would probably be reserved for the City and Suburban. He has been quietly backed in good quarters for the Epsom race, and has met with dangerous opposition for the Carholme contest.

Liberator, if he runs for the Grand National, will play second fiddle to Prophet in the same stable.

Abbot of St. Mary's, who has been advanced to the position of first favourite for the Grand National on the strength of his Croydon victory, is by no means a clever fencer, and Thornfield, whose style of jumping will just suit the difficult Aintree country, will probably beat him.

Owing to the heavy snow which has fallen in Scotland salmon fishing on Loch Tay is almost impracticable. But, the sport is, at best, not a fashionable one, and by no means half so enjoyable as that which is derived from river fishing. The hotel-keepers on the Loch at Killin and Kenmure must suffer considerably, as their harvest is daily departing, and as yet they have reaped little benefit.

The following are among the more distinguished arrivals in town during the week:—Sir Henry Howard, K.C.B., Lady Howard, and Captain Francis Howard, Brown's Hotel, from Munich; Viscount Eversley and the Hon. Miss Shaw Lefevre, 114, Eaton-square, from Heckfield; Mr. and Mrs. Theobald, Collingham-road, from the Bedfords, for the season; Lady Francis and Miss Gordon, 5, Wilton-crescent, for the season; Edward H. Carbutt, M.P., 19, Hyde Park Gardens, W.; Lord and Lady Alfred Churchill and the Misses Spencer Churchill, 16, Rutland-gate, from Ascot, for the season; the Marchioness of Salisbury and Ladies Cecil, 20, Arlington-street, from Nice and Paris; Earl and Countess Sondes, 16, Charles-street, Berkeley-square; Count Henry Lutzow and the Countess Lutzow, St. George's Hotel, Albemarle-street, from Brussels; Mr. Charles Tennant, M.P., Mrs. and Miss Tennant, Pulteney Hotel; the Earl and Countess of Clancarty have arrived in town from Garbally, Ballinasloe; H. E. Count Münster and Countess Marie Münster, have returned to the German Embassy, Carlton-house-terrace; the Hon. Mrs. Carrington Smythe, Thomas's Hotel; Lochiel and Lady Margaret Cameron, Montagu House, Whitehall.

Forecasts of Weather for the 24 hours ending at Noon on Sunday, March 13th, 1881, issued at 11 a.m. this day (Saturday).

ENGLAND, S. (London and Channel).—Easterly to south-easterly breezes, freshening, thick fog in places, then dull, probably rainy to-morrow.

SCOTAND, W.—Calms and south-easterly winds, freshening; fine generally, some fog.

ENGLAND, N.W. (and N. Wales).—South-easterly to easterly breezes, moderate; fair to dull.

ENGLAND, S.W. (and S. Wales).—Easterly breezes, fresh to strong; dull, rainy.

IRELAND, N.—Easterly breezes, moderate to fresh; dull.

IRELAND, S.—Easterly to south-easterly breezes, freshening; dull to rainy.

GENERAL.—The weather is inclined to become much colder, and less settled in the west, south, and south-west.

The *New York Herald* weather prophet has started off for England, Ireland, Norway, &c., another "disturbance," which it is said will "develop dangerous energy" on our coasts between the 10th and 12th inst.; so we may be catching it to-day just as the reader is perusing these lines, or we may expect it to-morrow. It is a cruel proceeding this sending over disturbances of American manufacture.

The present weather prophet of the *New York Herald* has only made 15 per cent. of accurate prophecies, while only 43 per cent. have been partially correct, and the rest altogether wrong. It was certainly high time he ceased from disturbing.

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES.—This society (whose offices are at 81, Cheapside, London) now shows subsisting assurance amounting to £35,500,000. Its assets are over £8,000,000, and income exceeds £1,750,000, with a surplus over all liabilities exceeding £1,800,000. In 21 years this society has paid over £11,000,000 to its policy holders.—[ADVT.]

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ESTATE NEWS—LAND VALUES.
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NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—All Advertisements intended for insertion in the "CUCKOO" should reach the ADVERTISEMENT OFFICE, 86, FLEET STREET, E.C., by the EVENING before the DAY intended for their appearance.

H. FREEMAN.

THE LADIES' TREASURY; a Household Magazine of Literature, Education, and Fashion. 6d. Monthly; by post, 7d.

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Conquest of Ireland. Part II.
The Lost Bridal Gift.
Thomas Carlyle. (With Portrait.)
Chemistry of Cookery.
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This Day, March 12, is published a Supplement to the *Economist*.

THE COMMERCIAL HISTORY and REVIEW of 1880.

In continuation of the series commenced with 1863, containing a careful digest of the leading Merchants' and Brokers' Circulars in the different branches of trade, returns of prices, accounts of the Banks of England and France, appendices relating to special subjects of mercantile interest connected with the year, &c., the objects of the Supplement being to place in possession of our readers a Commercial History of 1880 worthy of preservation, and adapted for reference.

The price of the *Economist* on March 12 will be 1s. 4d., by post 1s. 4½d.

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WAR!!!

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O men! what are ye, and our best designs,
That we must work by crime to punish crime,
And slay, as if death had but this one gate?"
—*Byron.*

THE COST OF WAR.—"Give me the money that has been spent in war, and I will purchase every foot of land upon the globe; I will clothe every man, woman, and child in an attire of which kings and queens would be proud; I will build a schoolhouse on every hillside and in every valley over the whole earth; I will build an academy in every town and endow it; a college in every state and will fill it with able professors; I will crown every hill with a place of worship consecrated to the promulgation of the gospel of peace; I will support in every pulpit an able teacher of righteousness, so that on every Sabbath morning the chime on one hill should answer the chime on another round the earth's wide circumference, and the voice of prayer and the song of praise should ascend, like a universal holocaust, to heaven."—RICHARD.

"WHAT is more terrible than War?" "I will tell you what is ten times, and TEN THOUSAND TIMES more terrible than War—Outraged Nature. She kills, and kills, and is never tired of killing till she has taught man the terrible lesson he is so slow to learn—that Nature is only conquered by obeying her. . . . Man has his courtesies of war; he spares the woman and child. But Nature is fierce when she is offended, as she is bounteous and kind when she is obeyed. She spares neither woman nor child. She has no pity; for some awful, but most good, reason, she is not allowed to have any pity. Silently, she strikes the sleeping child with as little remorse as she would strike the strong man with the musket or the pick-axe in his hand. Ah! would to God that some man had the pictorial eloquence to put before the mothers of England the mass of preventible suffering, the mass of preventible agony of mind and body, which exists in England year after year!"—KINGSLEY. How much longer must the causes of this startling array of preventible deaths continue unchecked?

IMPORTANT TO TRAVELLERS.

"Clifton Down Hotel, near Bristol, Gloucestershire, February 10, 1881.

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